

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite material comprising a plurality of cores of polycrystalline ultra-hard material, ~~or the components for making an ultra-hard material~~, dispersed in a matrix, the matrix comprising ~~the components for making an a further polycrystalline~~ ultra-hard material of a grade or type which is different ~~[[to]]~~ from that of the ~~material of the cores, and a suitable binder.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ each said polycrystalline ultra-hard material is selected from the group of materials consisting of polycrystalline diamond (PCD) or polycrystalline cubic boron nitride (PcBN).
3. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to claim 2, wherein the cores are provided selectively as individual particles or in the form of granules.
4. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores are made from a fine-grained PCD grade material and the matrix of a coarser PCD grade material than that of the cores.
5. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores are made from a coarser PCD grade material and the matrix of a fine-grained PCD grade material.
6. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 4, wherein the fine-grained PCD grade material has grains having a grain size in the range of about 0.1 to about 20 microns.
7. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, wherein the coarser PCD grade material has grains having a grain size in the range of about 10 to about 100 microns.

8. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores and matrix are made from the same type of said polycrystalline ultrahard material, and the particle size of the material of said cores differs from that of the material of said matrix by between about 5 and about 70 microns.

9. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores and the matrix are made from the same polycrystalline ultrahard material[, but]] with different binder phases for each.

10. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores are formed of PCD and the matrix of PcBN type material.

11. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores are formed from PcBN type material.

12. (Currently Amended) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores and matrix are each made from mixtures of two types of polycrystalline ultrahard materials, [[those]] wherein said mixtures being-substantially are different from each other.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a composite material as defined in claim 1, which includes the steps of:

(i) providing a plurality of cores of [[an]] said polycrystalline ultra-hard material or [[the]] components for making [[an]] a polycrystalline ultra-hard material;

(ii) providing [[the]] components for making [[an]] a polycrystalline ultra-hard material of a different grade [[to]] than that of the cores and a suitable binder; and

(iii) consolidating the cores, components and binder to produce [[a]] said composite material.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tool component including the steps of:

(i) providing a substrate;

(ii) providing a composite material as defined in claim 1;

(iii) placing a layer of the composite material on a surface of the substrate to produce an unbonded component; and

(iv) subjecting the unbonded component to conditions of elevated temperature and pressure suitable to produce [[an]] said polycrystalline ultra-hard material.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the cores are provided as granules coated with the components for making [[an]] said polycrystalline ultra-hard material and the binder.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the cores are provided as granules, and the granules are mixed with the components for making [[an]] said polycrystalline ultra-hard material and the binder.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the cores are provided as granules coated with the components for making [[an]] said polycrystalline ultra-hard material and the binder.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the cores are provided as granules, and the granules are mixed with the components for making [[an]] said polycrystalline ultra-hard material and the binder.

19. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 5, wherein the fine-grained PCD grade material has grains having a grain size in the range of about 0.1 to about 20 microns.

20. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 5, wherein the coarser PCD grade material has grains having a grain size in the range of about 10 to about 100 microns.